

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Sean R. O'Dowd on 2-15-08.

Claims 38, 105, and 107-110 have been canceled.

104. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of removing monovalent cations includes ~~controlling the amount of time the ion exchange media and the contaminated water are mixed together or~~ controlling a stoichiometric ratio of the concentration of un-used ion exchange media to the concentration of monovalent cations in the contaminated water so as to leave the divalent cations in the treated water.

The title has been changed to --METHOD FOR PREFERENTIALLY REMOVING MONOVALENT CATIONS FROM CONTAMINATED WATER--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Kunz is considered the closest prior art, however, the reference fails to teach or suggest the limitation of removing monovalent cations so as to leave divalent cations in treated

water by controlling the amount of time the ion exchange media and the contaminated water are mixed together as recited in instant claim 37.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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